

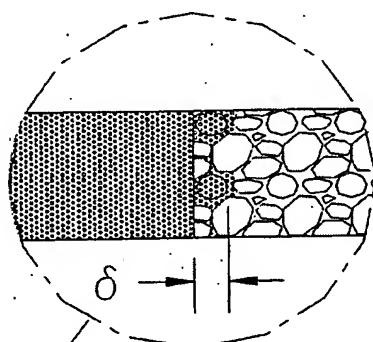
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Support for new Claims 19 and 20 is found at specification page 16, lines 8-11, where the definition of the term “fused” is provided. No new matter has been entered.

The present invention relates to an abrasive pad comprising an abrasive substrate having a polishing surface and a light transmitting member. In the claimed invention, the light transmitting member is fused to the abrasive substrate and comprises a water-insoluble matrix material and a water-soluble substance dispersed in the water-insoluble matrix material. See pending Claim 1. As used in both the present specification and the pending claims, the term “fused” is defined at specification page 16 to mean a state in which the light transmitting member and the abrasive substrate are bonded together by melting at least the bonding surface(s) of one or both of them without using an adhesive. As noted by the above amendment to the claims, new Claims 19 and 20 specifically describe these two alternatives.

The rejection over EP ‘973 in view of Petroski is traversed. EP ‘973 was discussed in Applicants’ last response, and Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the rejection over this reference. It is respectfully submitted that Petroski does not make up for that lacking in EP ‘973.

In particular, Petroski suffers from the same defect that EP ‘973 does: it does not disclose a light transmitting member fused to an abrasive substrate. Rather, the Petroski pad relies on the diffusion of flowing polymer into a porous pad. See paragraph [0022] at page 2 of Petroski. This diffusion to a certain depth “d” (δ) is shown in detail in Figure 3B:



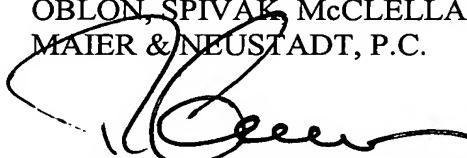
In Petroski a “diffusion zone” is clearly depicted and relied upon for function. This situation differs distinctly from the present invention, wherein the light transmitting member is fused to the abrasive substrate. Thus, Petroski fails to make up for that lacking in EP ‘973 because diffusion, not fusion, is disclosed. Applicants thus respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection over EP ‘973 in view of Petroski.

Finally, Applicants have cancelled Claim 9. Claims 7 and 8, currently withdrawn, should be rejoined with the allowable claims as these method claims refer back to allowable Claim 1. See MPEP § 821.04.

As all issues outstanding herein have been addressed, Applicants respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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